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Full Senate Passes Bill to Make Medication Safer for Kids

*FDA & Drug Companies Will Collaborate in Developing Safe & Effective Drugs for
Children*

WASHINGTON -- The Pediatric Drugs Research Authority Bill passed the U.S. Senate yesterday under voice vote paving the way for the development of safer drugs for our children. The bipartisan bill, which was shepherded through the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions by Chairman Judd Gregg (R-NH), will ensure that drug companies take the needs of children into consideration during the clinical trials of future medications. The legislation gives the Food and Drug Administration definitive statutory authority to require that drug companies conduct specific research on drugs that are taken by children.

“When children develop fevers, we naturally give them children’s Tylenol, not the adult-strength version. We do this because the children’s version is specifically tailored to the needs and systems of younger bodies. This bill builds on this basic concept by filling in some of the gaps where the development of drugs specifically for children has been inadequate and ensures that and new innovations meet necessary requirements,” said Senator Gregg.

“In this legislation, the FDA will meet with drug companies early on in the development process to ensure that adequate testing for children and their needs is being done during the clinical trials. Children are not simply small adults with small adult problems, and this bill makes sure that medications are safe and effective for children as well as adults,” said Senator Gregg.

The legislation, introduced by Senator Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), has support from both sides of the aisle including Senators Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), Frist (R-Tennessee), Dodd (D-Connecticut), Clinton (D-New York) and Murray (D-Washington).

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